

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A reception device for controlling a video recording device physically separate from the reception device, the reception device comprising:

reception means for receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network by a sender;

first extracting means for extracting encrypted certification information inserted in said electronic mail received by said reception means;

second extracting means for extracting a control command inserted in said electronic mail received by said reception means for controlling a remote timer video recording reservation function of the physically separate video recording device, wherein said control command is added to said electronic mail to reserve an operation time of said physically separate video recording device;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extracting means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a the sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

means for determining if the control command extracted by the second extracting means is seeking an operation time duplicating one already reserved and informing the sender by electronic mail if so;

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an authorized user and if the means for determining determines there is no duplicated operation time request, said control command extracted by said second extracting means; and

control means for controlling said timer video recording reservation function of the physically separate video recording device to reserve an operation time of said physically separate video recording device based on said control command stored in said storing means.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said certification information is predetermined text information in an encrypted state.

4. (Previously Presented) A receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said certification information inserted in said electronic mail is predetermined information encrypted by use of a private key owned by said authorized user and said decrypting means decrypts said certification information extracted by said first extracting means by use of a public key.

5. (Currently Amended) A reception method for controlling a video recording device performed without using interior components of the video recording device, the reception method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network by a sender;

a first extracting step of extracting encrypted certification information inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step;

a second extracting step of extracting a control command added to said electronic mail to control a reservation function of said video recording device so as to reserve an operation time of said video recording device;

decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;

certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a the sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

determining if the control command extracted in the second extracting step is seeking an operation time duplicating one already reserved and informing the sender by electronic mail if it is;

storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user and if the determining step determines there is no duplicated operation time request, said control command extracted in said second extracting step; and

controlling said reservation function of said video recording device so as to reserve the operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing step.

6. (Previously Presented) A transmitting apparatus, comprising:

electronic mail inputting means for inputting an electronic mail;

encrypting means for encrypting predetermined information;

first adding means for adding as certification information said predetermined information encrypted by said encrypting means to said electronic mail inputted through said electronic mail inputting means;

second adding means for adding a control command for controlling a remote reservation function including an operation time of an external video recording device to said electronic mail inputted through said electronic mail inputting means, wherein said control command is selected by a user of said external video recording device and further indicates a manner in which said external video recording device will operate after said external video recording device is activated at said operation time;

transmitting means for transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added by said first adding means and said control command added by said second adding means; and

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail indication from the network that no reservation for the requested operation time has been made when there is an overlap of the requested operation time with any previously entered operation times.

7. (Previously Presented) A transmitting method, comprising:
an electronic mail inputting step of inputting an electronic mail;

a first adding step of adding certification information generated by encrypting predetermined information to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic mail inputting step;

a second adding step of adding a control command for controlling a remote reservation function including an operation time of an external video recording device to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic mail inputting step, wherein said control command is selected by a user of the external video recording device and further indicates a manner in

which the external video recording device will operate after the external video recording device is activated at said operation time;

a transmitting step of transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added in said first adding step and said control command added in said second adding step; and

a receiving step of receiving an electronic mail indication from the network that no reservation for the requested operation time has been made when there is an overlap of the requested operation time with any previously entered operation times.

8. (Previously Presented) A transmitting/reception system for controlling a video recording device physically separate therefrom, the transmitting/reception system comprising:

input means for generating at least a portion of an electronic mail;

encrypting means for encrypting predetermined information;

first addition means for adding, as certification information, the information encrypted by said encrypting means to said electronic mail generated by said input means;

second addition means for adding a control command to said electronic mail to control a reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof;

transmission means for transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added by said first addition means and said control command added by said second addition means;

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail indication from the network that no requested operation time has been entered when there is an overlap of the requested operation time with any previously entered operation times;

reception means for receiving said transmitted electronic mail through the network at a location of the video recording device;

first extraction means for extracting said certification information from said electronic mail received by said reception means;

second extraction means for extracting said control command from said electronic mail received by said extraction means;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extraction means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

means for determining if the control command extracted by the second extracting means is seeking an operation time duplicating one already reserved and transmitting an electronic mail on the network indicating that no reservation has been entered because the control command extracted in the second extracting step is seeking an operation time duplicating one already entered;

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an authorized user and if the means for determining determines there is no duplicated operation time request, said control command extracted by said second extracting means; and

control means for controlling said reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing means.

9. (Previously Presented) A transmitting/reception method for controlling a video recording device performed without using interior components of the video recording device, the transmitting/reception method, comprising the steps of:

inputting information to generate at least a portion of an electronic mail;

encrypting predetermined information;

a first adding step of adding, as certification information, information encrypted in said encrypting step to said electronic mail generated in said inputting step;

a second adding step of adding to said electronic mail a control command to control a reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof;

transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added in said first adding step and said control command added in said second adding step;

and receiving an electronic mail indication from the network that no reservation for the requested operation time has been made when there is an overlap of the requested operation time with any previously entered operation times;

receiving said transmitted electronic mail from the network at a location of the video recording device;

a first extracting step of extracting said certification information from said received electronic mail;

a second extracting step of extracting said control command from said received electronic mail;

decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;

certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user;

determining if the control command extracted in the second extracting step is seeking an operation time duplicating one already reserved and transmitting an electronic mail on the network indicating that no reservation has been made because the control command extracted in the second extracting step is seeking a duplicate operation time of one already reserved;

storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user, and if the determining step determines there is no duplicated operation time request, said control command extracted in said second extracting step; and

controlling said reservation function of the video recording device to reserve an operation time thereof based on said control command stored in said storing step.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A terminal, comprising:

a modem for receiving electronic mail through a network;

a memory; and

a central processing unit for extracting encrypted certification information and a control command from said electronic mail for controlling a remote reservation function and an operation time of an external video recording device received by said modem, for

decrypting said certification information, for determining from the decrypted certification information whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user, for determining if the extracted control command is seeking an operation time duplicating one already reserved and informing the sender by electronic mail if it is, and for transmitting said control command to said memory if said sender is an authorized user, wherein

said control command is selected by a user of the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which the external video recording device will operate after the external video recording device is activated at the operation time.

12. (Previously Presented) A terminal, comprising:

an input block;

a display device;

a graphical user interface displayed on said display device and responsive to instructions from said input block to add encrypted certification information and a control command for controlling a remote reservation function and operation time of an external video recording device to electronic mail, wherein said control command is selected by a user of the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which the external video recording device will operate after the external video recording device is activated at said operation time; and

a modem for transmitting said electronic mail through a network to said external video recording device and receiving an electronic mail indication from the network that no reservation for the requested operation time has been made when there is an overlap of the requested operation time with any previously entered operation times .